



Mezal | Marhoon | Alaali
& Associates





INTRODUCTION

- A Legacy of Success

Founded by acclaimed lawyer **Ahmed Jassim Al Mezal** in 1978, **MMALF** has grown to be one of the most respected and successful law firms in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Over 45 years of our rich history, we have provided intelligent counsel to some of the largest, most high-profile clients in Bahrain and abroad. The firm practises all kinds of legal services for individuals, companies, and governments from Bahrain and all over the world in collaboration with GCC countries and international law firms.

The collective experience of our team of highly specialised lawyers enables us to respond to our clients' immediate needs with understanding and nuance, and present creative solutions to safeguard their interests.

The team integrates comprehensive legal expertise, commercial understanding, and technical industry knowledge to successfully handle disputes across all key sectors, including construction and engineering, energy and natural resources, licensing, distribution and agency, infrastructure, bilateral investment treaties, and insurance and reinsurance.



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GLOBALLY MINDED

With a wide network of associates around the world and across a range of industries, MMALF provides legal representation to States, Private entities, and foreign organisations in contentious and advisory matters all over the world. We also work with international organisations interested in conducting operations in Bahrain by providing in-depth local knowledge of the market, legal framework, and regulatory/legislative environment.

Additionally, the firm advises on dispute resolution between investors, such as being called upon to analyse the effect of private and public international law on international commercial transactions in global commercial sectors including project finance, energy, utilities, and telecommunications. Our services also extend to resolving complex, high-value cases regarding International Arbitration and Litigation.



PARTNERS



**AHMED JASIM
AL MEZAL**

Founder
Attorney at Law
Arbitrator



**ALI AKBAR
ALAALI**

Co-Founder & Managing Partner
Attorney at Law
Arbitrator & Mediator



**HUSAIN AQEEL
MARHOON**

Co-Founder & Managing Partner
Attorney at Law
Arbitrator & Mediator





Embracing traditional values and modern technologies

At MMALF, our team has internalized lessons learnt from our past, as well as embraced values of the future. With an eye on modernizing the practice, MMALF has transformed into the region's first all-electronic and paperless law office.

Highly secure communications and encrypted document transfer, along with a state-of-the-art conference room, enable us to service clients all over the world.



The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a piece of fabric or a wall, with a central focus area highlighted in white. The focus area is a large, irregular shape, possibly a piece of fabric or a wall, with a central focus area highlighted in white. The text "AREAS OF FOCUS" is written in a bold, white, serif font, centered horizontally and vertically within the focus area. The overall tone is dark and moody, with some lighter, textured areas visible in the background.

AREAS OF FOCUS

1. LITIGATION

Our legal team has vast experience conducting litigation matters in various sectors and industries. We specialise in complex litigation matters and also assist clients to achieve alternative means of resolving their commercial disputes via arbitration and other channels such as amicable settlement.

2. INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Our relationships with international legal institutions and understanding of global jurisdictions enables us to provide trusted counsel and vigorous representation in protecting and vindicating our clients' interests in commercial arbitrations worldwide. We are equipped to handle the most challenging and complex cases in numerous industries and specialised sectors.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Our Trade law specialists help businesses navigate complex international law and domestic regulations as well as draft contracts incorporating international instruments including:

Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA)

GCC Free Trade Agreement

GCC-Singapore Federal Trade Agreement (GSFTA)

GCC-EFTA Agreement

US-Bahrain FTA

CISG

UNCITRAL MODEL LAW

US-BAHRAIN FTA

Bahrain was the **first country in the GCC** to enter into a *Free Trade Agreement with the United States of America*. By removing or reducing tariffs and other trade barriers, the FTA represents an opportunity for Bahraini businesses to expand into the US market. Additionally, it created new opportunities for U.S. financial service providers and companies that offer telecommunications, audiovisual, express delivery, distribution, healthcare, architecture, and engineering services in Bahrain.

Ever since the signing of the FTA, MMALF has been advising local and American businesses in setting up operations in Bahrain and the US. The firm has extensive experience with the structuring of import and export activities; governmental compliance and audits; establishment of U.S. and foreign operations; organisation, development of necessary import/export compliance strategies; company licensing and representation relationships; and assisting clients with transnational commercial matters.

CISG

Bahrain was the **first GCC member** that adopted the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). The treaty was established to provide a balanced legal framework for the formation and performance of contracts for sale of goods across borders.

CISG allows parties to the sales contract to tailor its provisions to their needs, or even, if so wished, to exclude its application. At the same time, it offers an effective safety net in those cases where the parties did not choose the law applicable to the contract or could not fully negotiate their contractual terms. Additionally, CISG gives useful guidance in case of disruption due to unforeseen events such as the Covid-19 pandemic, by clarifying the duties of the parties and allocating risks.

With a team well-versed in the intricacies of this treaty, MMALF is well positioned to offer legal advice on the drafting of contracts and arbitration of disputes under this convention.

4. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Our firm serves companies, governments, and financial institutions by providing commentaries on new regulations and advice regarding laws and their application, in addition to offering suggestions for new legislations and policies to entities.

5. MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

As a leading advisor on mergers and acquisitions, MMALF actively represents local and international clients in the processes involved with corporate acquisitions within a constantly evolving regulatory and legal environment.

6. FRANCHISING

Our firm's considerable experience in advising and assisting businesses to establish franchise arrangements allows us to identify potential issues and to advise on appropriate and practical solutions to mitigate a franchisee's exposure to legal roadblocks.

7. CONSTRUCTION

We cater to clients' construction-related needs from drafting of tender and project documentation to the resolution of disputes arising out of projects. We prepare and negotiate commercially appropriate, special conditions for all major forms of construction contracts as well. Additionally, we advise clients on FIDIC, and draft FIDIC contracts preferable to their requirements by adding necessary provisions under Bahrain law and eliminating those that are disadvantageous.

8. REAL ESTATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Real Estate team advises real estate and infrastructure development companies on complex issues related to the industry including investments and acquisitions, joint ventures and restructuring existing transactions.

9. INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION

Our international litigation team deals with the most challenging and complex cases of international disputes. Our network of associates enables us to provide strategic guidance, and political and cultural insight to multinational corporations, institutions and other global entities. We also have the ability to enforce and execute foreign judgements in multiple jurisdictions.

10. PRIVATE CLIENTS

MMALF's private client services team assists clients in areas relating to wealth management, estate planning and business succession planning. We counsel family offices, high and ultra-high net worth individuals regarding the passing of wealth to the next generation or restructuring closely held businesses with considerations of family, duty and legacy. We serve clients domiciled both in Bahrain and abroad, such as the UK and EU.

11. EMPLOYMENT

We offer expert advice and support clients in all legal issues related to employment including employment laws, resolving employee claims, drafting employment agreements and preparing complex policy documentation.

12. FAMILY LAW

Our specialists are equipped to handle the most complex family law matters including multi-jurisdictional issues. We ensure that all family arrangements and agreements comply with local laws and can be easily enforced in the Bahrain court system.

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Our IP specialists deal with all aspects of intellectual property from establishing and protecting intellectual property rights to defending them against exploitation and infringement through litigating and enforcement.

14. CRIMINAL LAW

Our team of highly skilled criminal defence lawyers defend clients at all levels of prosecution by employing a deep and nuanced knowledge of Bahrain law. We address clients' specific needs with creative problem solving and prompt resolution.

The background is a complex, abstract composition of layered textures. It features large, irregular shapes that resemble torn pieces of paper or heavy brushstrokes. The color palette is diverse, including bright yellow, vibrant green, deep black, and a bold red at the bottom. The overall effect is one of dynamic, organic movement and layered depth.

SECTORS

1



HOTELS & LEISURE

Our specialists offer the broad range of advice needed by hoteliers through all the stages of acquisition, development, finance and day-to-day management.

Our services include:

- ▀ Hotel acquisitions and sales
 - ▀ Management agreements
 - ▀ Financing
 - ▀ Employment health and safety
- etc.

2



REAL ESTATE

Our real estate lawyers are an eminent authority on the latest real estate laws and regulations.

We advise clients across the full range of real estate matters including:

- ▀ Investment and financing
- ▀ Dispute resolution
- ▀ Development projects.

3



HEALTHCARE

We leverage our extensive experience to advise clients on complex regulatory and practical challenges faced when operating in this market sector.

MMALF assists clients in dealing with:

- ▀ Governmental regulatory agencies
- ▀ Offering practical solutions to minimise risk.

4



EDUCATION

Resulting from a deep understanding of the industry, or legal team guides educators over legal, regulatory and policy issues *including:*

- ▀ Establishment of new schools
 - ▀ School governance
 - ▀ Management and accreditation
 - ▀ Student matters
 - ▀ School finance
- etc.

SECTORS

5



CONSTRUCTION

With legal specialists from the construction industry, we have the capability to offer pragmatic legal advice on a wide scope of matters related to construction projects *including:*

- ▀ Contract drafting
- ▀ Local zoning requirements
- ▀ Pre-/post-contract stages
- ▀ Owners' claims
- ▀ Contractors' claims.

6



COMMERCIAL COMPANIES

Our experience enables us to advise both start-ups and established companies through the complexities of commercial and corporate law *including:*

- ▀ Contracts
- ▀ Company formation
- ▀ Shareholder rights
- ▀ Corporate governance
- ▀ International mergers and acquisitions.

7



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Our expert legal advice is based on a deep understanding of the ever-evolving travel industry commercial and regulatory pressures.

Our specialist travel team combines international insurance, liability, health and safety, regulatory and commercial experience.

SECTORS

The background is a rich, textured gold color. Overlaid on this are intricate, swirling patterns in shades of green, blue, and brown. These patterns resemble stylized calligraphy or organic, flowing lines, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is a complex, artistic composition.

OUR SERVICES



LAWSUITS AND LEGAL SERVICES

Our specialised and experienced lawyers undertake judicial work and provide legal advice in all disciplines

- ▀ Constitutional
- ▀ Civil
- ▀ Administrative
- ▀ Military
- ▀ Commercial
- ▀ Criminal
- ▀ Legal
- ▀ Labour
- ▀ Rent
- ▀ Real Estate
- ▀ Intellectual Property
- ▀ Insurance and Banks

We settle disputes before all courts and at different degrees of litigation and judicial committees.



EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS ISSUED BY THE LOCAL AND GULF COURTS, ARBITRATORS, AND ALL OTHER EXECUTIVE BONDS

We execute judgements issued by both, courts of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and those from the Gulf Cooperation Council members based on the Riyadh Agreement for Judicial Cooperation.

We also implement all judgements issued by arbitrators for both domestic and international commercial disputes including:

■ **Domestic and International Commercial Arbitration, and Alternative Dispute Resolution**

We specialise in handling a broad spectrum of domestic and international dispute settlements using innovative and modern methods via negotiations, conciliation, and mediation.



NOTARIZATION

We act as private notaries for various requirements including Memorandums of Association, Amendments to the MOA, Civil Marriages and Powers of Attorney.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Our intellectual property team provides comprehensive advice to clients on the legal, regulatory and commercial aspects of intellectual property including its registration, protection and use across a broad range of sectors locally and internationally.

AMICABLE SETTLEMENTS SERVICES

With a very high success rate, our Dispute Resolution and Arbitration team resolves disputes in an amicable manner using in-depth knowledge of all local and international laws including the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce.

LEGAL TRANSLATION SERVICES

Our translation team is trusted by multinational corporates for providing accurate and timely translation of all legal documents including contracts, petitions and claims.

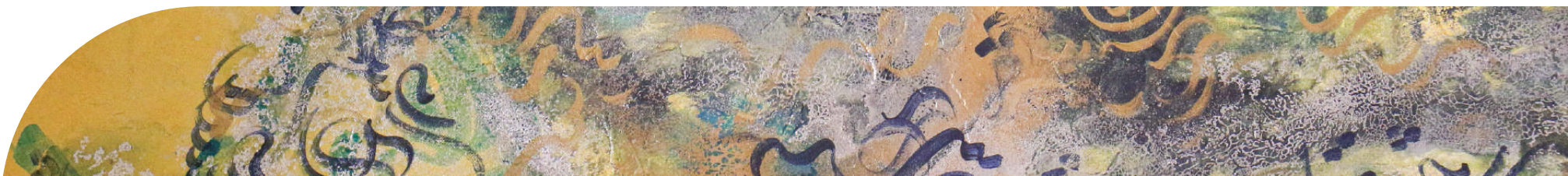
LOCAL REPRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRMS

Building upon the global network nurtured by the firm, MMALF also acts as the local agent for international law firms in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The scope of our services includes judgement and arbitration enforcement. We also have experience in translating orders obtained from foreign jurisdictions to local court orders in a timely manner.

FRANCHISE CONSULTANCY

We offer several services for franchisers, such as legal advice to clients, understanding international and local franchise law, ensuring both parties comply with all regulations. We also prepare and maintain the franchise agreement, represent the client in hearings or court, negotiate franchise deals based on the facts, engage in matters of alternative dispute resolution.

Additionally, MMALF ensures that clients comply with the terms of the franchise agreement and stays updated on any new directives as provided by franchise regulators.





EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

With an eye to the future, MMALF is heavily invested in educating the next generation of lawyers and litigators for the betterment of the industry. We run instructive and competitive internship programs for university students where they are rotated among various departments and are given the opportunity to participate in real-world cases as part of a legal team.

MMALF also collaborates with the global information and analytics company LexisNexis for organising regular seminars and events which address trending topics that are aimed to provide training and insight to lawyers, paralegals and students.

LEGAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP



AEA International Lawyers Network



UIA International Association of Lawyers



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